

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /066 W
-----016406 081306Z /42

O 081125Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 949
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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USEEC,

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IPS/PE, IBS/PN, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR
SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENTARY BEFORE TURKISH-GREEK SUMMIT AT
MONTREUX
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REF: A) ANKARA 1686 (DTG 061333Z MAR 78) (NOTAL),
B) PARIS 8073 (DTG 071743Z MAR 78) (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE UPCOMING
SUMMIT WITH PRIMIN CARAMANLIS, PRIMIN ECEVIT CONTINUES
TO EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE. WHILE NOT PREDICTING DRAMATIC

RESULTS, ECEVIT HAS STRESSED HIS OPTIMISM AND THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO THIS MEETING. BY CONTRAST, THE LIMITED EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT HAS APPEARED SO FAR HAS GENERALLY BEEN PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE SUMMIT BECAUSE OF WHAT IS PERCEIVED AS GREEK FOOT-DRAGGING AND INTERNAL OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. CONTINUING TO MAKE UPBEAT STATEMENTS ABOUT THE MONTREUX SUMMIT MEETING WITH HIS GREEK COUNTERPART, ON MARCH 7 PRIMIN ECEVIT TOLD THE PRESS, "IN THE TALKS THAT WILL BE HELD WITH THE HONORABLE CARAMANLIS IN MONTREUX, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE FINDING IMMEDIATE, CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE FIRST STAGE... THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE AT THE PRIME MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND BE ABLE TO GIVE A DIRECTION TO THE WORK BEING DONE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS." CUMHURIYET ON MARCH 8, IN AN ARTICLE DATED MONTREUX, REPORTS THAT WHILE THE ECEVIT-CARAMANLIS MEETING IS BEING HELD WITHOUT A FIXED AGENDA, "IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT A 'DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES' WILL EMERGE FROM THE MEETING." THE WRITER ALSO INDICATES THAT THE TURKISH SIDE HOPES TO LEARN IN THE MEETINGS THE "AIMS AND NEEDS OF GREECE". ECEVIT'S INTERVIEW WITH FIGARO (REF B) WAS WIDELY REPLAYED IN MARCH 8 PAPERS.

3. IN CUMHURIYET MARCH 6, SENIOR EDITORIALIST ALI SIRMEN OBSERVED: "THE RECOMMENDATION MADE BY ECEVIT FOR A SUMMIT UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETING WAS ACCEPTED UNWILLINGLY BY GREEK PRIMIN. IT IS HOPED THAT THIS MEETING WILL RESULT IN CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS TOWARD SETTLING PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES...WHILE THERE IS CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM REGARDING A FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IMF, EQUAL OPTIMISM CANNOT BE SHOWN TOWARD THE TURKISH-GREEK SUMMIT MEETING. THE OPPOSITION IN GREECE IS AGAINST NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY, AND IT IS HARD FOR CARAMANLIS TO OVERCOME HIS DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY."

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4. SENATOR METIN TOKER COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY FROM ATHENS
FOR HURRIYET MARCH 7: "THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE
SECOND CALL FOR A SUMMIT MEETING WITH THE ATTITUDE THAT THIS
WILL BE A 'KAFFEE KLATCH'. ALTHOUGH IT WAS STATED THAT A 'FIRM'
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AGENDA WOULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED, IT APPEARS THAT THE TWO PRIMINS
WILL TAKE UP ALL OF THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES...THE
JOINT COMMUNIQUE GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT BOTH PRIMINS HOPE
FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF RECONCILIATION. BUT AS USUAL, IT
IS PERCEIVED THAT GREECE IS PLAYING A TWO-FACED GAME. IT MUST
BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE, THE GREEK
OPPOSITION PARTIES AND THE GREEK CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION ARE
MAKING A 'TIGHT FIST' AGAINST THIS MEETING... WHILE THESE
THREE PARTIES SEEM TO BE CHANTING DIFFERENT TUNES, IN REALITY
ALL ARE IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER... AT THE SAME TIME, THE
PRO-GREEK PRESS IS ENGAGED IN AN EXTENSIVE ANTI-TURKISH
CAMPAIGN. IF CARAMANLIS IS SINCERE IN WISHING TO SOLVE

PROBLEMS, DOES HE NOT MAKE HIS POSITION MORE DIFFICULT WITH THESE STORIES?... ECEVIT'S SINCERITY CANNOT BE QUESTIONED, BUT IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT HE WILL FIND AN EQUALLY SINCERE GREEK PRIMIN IN FRONT OF HIM...CARAMANLIS IS CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE THIS MEETING THE ATMOSPHERE OF AN 'INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING'. FOR THIS REASON AND ON HIS REQUEST, NO FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL PARTICIPATE. AT THE SAME TIME, CARAMANLIS IS ASKING THAT THE PRESS BE KEPT AWAY FROM THE MEETING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE." TOKER CONCLUDES: "IF CARAMANLIS CALCULATES THAT THE SUMMIT SHOULD NOT MAKE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON WORLD PUBLIC OPINION WILL BELIEVE THAT POSITIVE RESULTS WERE OBTAINED, THEN IT IS CLEAR THAT THESE TWO 'TIGHTROPE WALKERS' WILL HAVE TO EXHIBIT GREAT ABILITY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THEIR INDIVIDUAL AIMS."

5. HOWEVER, ON MARCH 8 TOKER REPORTED FROM ATHENS: "ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS JOURNALISTS OF GREECE, WHILE EXPLAINING THE CHANGE IN THE ATMOSPHERE IN ATHENS, STATED THE FOLLOWING: 'IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO CANNOT BE MAINTAINED ANY LONGER DESPITE ALL EFFORTS OF THE GREEK LOBBY.' AVEROFF, THE GREEK MINDEFENSE AND THE SECOND MAN UNCLASSIFIED

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OF GREECE AFTER CARAMANLIS, IS BUSY IN THE UNITED STATES TAKING THE PULSE, BUT THE FACT THAT THE GREEKS HAVE SOMEWHAT LOST THEIR HOPES ON THAT SUBJECT HAS STRENGTHENED THE POSITION OF THOSE WHO WANT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUCCESS IN THE ECEVIT-CARAMANLIS TALKS."
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